

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 STR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 /087 W

----- 081690

R 071820Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9062

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03574

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, BC, MZ, TZ, UK, RH

SUBJECT: NEW BRITISH ROLE IN EFFORTS TO SETTLE RHODESIAN
PROBLEM.

REF: LONDON 3181

1. IT IS APPARENT FROM TALKS WE HAVE HAD WITH FCO OFFI-
CIALS DURING PAST WEEK THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOW
PLAYING MORE ACTIVE ROLE AS MIDDLEMAN IN ATTEMPTING TO
BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM. ACCORDING
TO A MEMBER OF FON SEC CALLAGHAN'S PARTY, SOUTH AFRICAN
PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TOLD CALLAGHAN AT PORT ELIZABETH
IN JANUARY THAT BRITAIN AND SOUTH AFRICA COULD NOT AF-
FORD TO LET CURRENT MOVES TOWARD A SETTLEMENT FALL A-
PART. THIS STATEMENT BY VORSTER APPARENTLY ENCOURAGED
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BRITISH TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE

ROLE AS IT INDICATED TO THEM THAT THEY HAD SOME LEVERAGE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR ROLE AND INFLUENCE WITH THE INDEPENDENT BLACK AFRICAN STATES IN THE AREA.

2. TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION CALLAGHAN AND HIS LABOR PARTY COLLEAGUES IN THE CABINET DECIDED THAT THEY NEEDED TO HAVE BETTER CONTACTS WITH THE RHODESIAN ANC. HENCE THE DECISION TO SEND DENNIS GRENNAN TO LUSAKA. CALLAGHAN IS NOW IN A POSITION TO USE GRENNAN AND HIS AMBASSADOR IN SOUTH AFRICA SO AS TO GIVE BRITAIN MIDDLEMAN ROLE EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NO OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH SMITH. MEMBER OF CALLAGHAN'S ENTOURAGE HAS TOLD US THAT THIS IS ROLE CALLAGHAN NOW ENVISAGES FOR HIMSELF. SOUTH AFRICANS WILL BE COUNTED ON TO GET MESSAGES TO AND FROM SMITH BUT BRITISH BELIEVE VORSTER SUFFICIENTLY COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGING A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA TO BE SUFFICIENTLY RELIABLE INTERLOCUTOR.

3. AS OF MARCH 6 CALLAGHAN HAD NOT YET HAD REPORT FROM GRENNAN ON SITHOLE'S ARREST AND HENCE UNABLE DECIDE YET HOW TO REACT.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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